

**ZION NATIONAL PARK
COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM**

**2020 OPERATING PLAN FOR
COMMERCIALLY GUIDED BICYCLE TOURS**

1. Authorized Use Defined:

Commercially Guided Bicycle Tours: Human pedaled bicycle tours of up to 45 total participants (including group leaders and support staff) in approved use areas within Zion National Park (Zion) (see Authorized Use Areas Defined below). Tour groups consist of guides/tour leaders, participants, and support vehicles. Tours provide single day trips in Zion that may or may not span multiple days. Bicyclists are required to follow all applicable traffic regulations and safety guidelines. Guides provide safety information and messages that encourage visitors to preserve and protect park resources in conjunction with the management objectives of Zion National Park. A National Park Service monitor will be required for groups with over 30 participants. Permittees must contact the commercial services office at least three weeks in advance at zion_commercialservices@nps.gov to arrange for a monitor. The permittee will be responsible for monitoring costs (\$50 per hour with a 3hr minimum). Only services defined in this authorized use section may occur under this authorization.

Please note that commercially guided bicycle tour group size limits for Zion National Park will be modified for the 2021 CUA Operating Season (beginning January 1, 2021). The modified group size will consist of a maximum 16 guests (four groups of four) plus guides (not to exceed 18 total riders including participants and guides). Commercially guided bicycle tour authorized operating times will also be modified for the 2021 CUA Operating Season. The modified operational times will allow for guided bicycle tours to occur only between sunrise and 10:00 am and from 3:00 pm to sunset. Although not required for the 2020 operation season, the Zion Commercial Services Office encourages commercially guided bicycle tour CUA holders to implement these changes for the 2020 operating season when possible.

Electric Bicycles (e-bikes): The use of certain e-bikes in the national parks has been approved for the general public by the National Park Service (NPS) through Director's Order 3376. It should be noted that Sec. 6 of Secretarial Order #3376 Effect of the Order states; "To the extent there is any inconsistency between the provisions of this Order and any Federal laws or regulations, the laws or regulations will control." It should also be noted that Zion National Park will continue to ensure CUA program compliance with 54 USC 101925 Commercial Use Authorizations. As such, Zion will temporarily authorize Commercially Guided Bicycle Tours to use Class 1 e-bikes for the 2020 operating season in order to evaluate their use commercially. Information on whether authorization of commercially guided e-bike tours as a commercial service continues to be authorized for the 2021 operating season will be provided prior to that operating season.

Class 1 e-bikes are defined as having an electric motor that provides supplementary power to assist the pedaling of the e-bike by the rider. The rider must be pedaling to engage the electric assist. No throttle device may be present. The motor ceases to provide power when the e-bike reaches 20 mph.

Authorized Times of Operations: Bicycle tours may only operate during daylight hours (sunrise to sunset).

Spacing of Bicycle Riders: The permittee must regulate participant riders so that the entire group is broken into groups of no more than four riders per group with each group spaced apart by approximately one-half mile. When stopping to converse, take pictures, or make repairs, participants must pull completely off the roadway and must not bunch up or block traffic in any way.

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2. Authorized Use Areas Defined:

Authorized Areas of Use: Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway (NPS Route 10) through Zion National Park connecting sections of Utah State Route 9, Zion Canyon Scenic Drive, Kolob Canyons Road, and associated park facilities in Zion National Park.

Roadways Only: In accordance with 36 CFR 4.30, bicycle use within Zion National Park is prohibited except on established paved roads and parking areas. Bicyclists may walk (without bicycles) up to 100 feet off the roadway, using existing disturbances or staying on hardened surfaces.

Pa'rus Trail: Riders are encouraged to use the Pa'rus trail to avoid heavy vehicle congestion on the main park road. The Pa'rus Trail is a paved multiuse trail that originates at the South Campground. The trail which is 1.75 miles in length, follows the Virgin River from the South Campground to the Main Canyon Junction. Bicyclists may then continue up the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive towards the Temple of Sinawava. Bicycle speeds on the Pa'rus Trail must not exceed 15 MPH.

3. Unauthorized Use Defined:

The Kolob Terrace Road is NOT authorized for Commercially Guided Bicycle Tours.

Parking and stopping along park roads is prohibited except at designated paved parking areas or pull-offs. All vehicles and bicycles must be kept on established roadways. Parking and stopping in shuttle bus stops is prohibited during the shuttle season.

Passage through the Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel by bicycles or pedestrians is NOT permitted. It is required that all bicycle riders with the permittee's tour be shuttled through the Zion-Mt. Carmel tunnel. The permittee shall make its support vehicle available for shuttling of its participants. The support vehicle may park in the large pullout 100 yards east of the tunnel and in the large pullout approximately a half mile west of the tunnel.

Public Use Obstruction: Permitted groups are sharing visitor facilities with the general public. This permit does not convey any priority use of any park areas including road side pullouts, parking areas, picnic areas, etc. **Permittees are responsible for the conduct of their clients and must advise clients to stay on roadways, ride single file, and allow the public to pass.** Commercially Guided Bicycle Tours must not interfere with the general visiting public.

Laws and Policies: A Commercial Use Authorization does not authorize permittees to facilitate any activities or actions that are prohibited in the park. As such, river tubing and associated transportation or like activities is prohibited in the park. For more information on park regulations visit: <http://www.nps.gov/zion/learn/management/lawsandpolicies.htm>. Permit violations can result in punitive action (fine, revocation of permit and or arrest) against both the representative (guide), and the permittee.

This authorization does not allow guided hiking, interpretive, or instructional services on park trails. Leading interpretive talks or walks without proper permitting is a violation of this permit and may result in revocation of permit privileges.

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4. Guide Requirements:

Guides must be identifiable as employees of the permittee: This can be accomplished by nametags and/or company identifiable clothing/accessories/hats. Company vehicles must also be identifiable.

Acknowledgement of Permit Conditions: All guides and drivers are required to submit an online acknowledgement of CUA permit conditions before leading and/or driving tours into Zion National Park.

This form is available by visiting:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAANicDOTBURE45VkrBUkVYVEUwT1NaV0RBWFE4WjBLOS4u>

Medical Certifications: All guides must have a valid driver's license and current medical certifications at minimum in basic first aid and CPR. These certifications must be on file with the Commercial Services Office. It is the permittees responsibility to keep this information up to date.

Guides are responsible for making sure clients have sufficient drinking water and nourishment for the duration of the planned activity and related weather conditions.

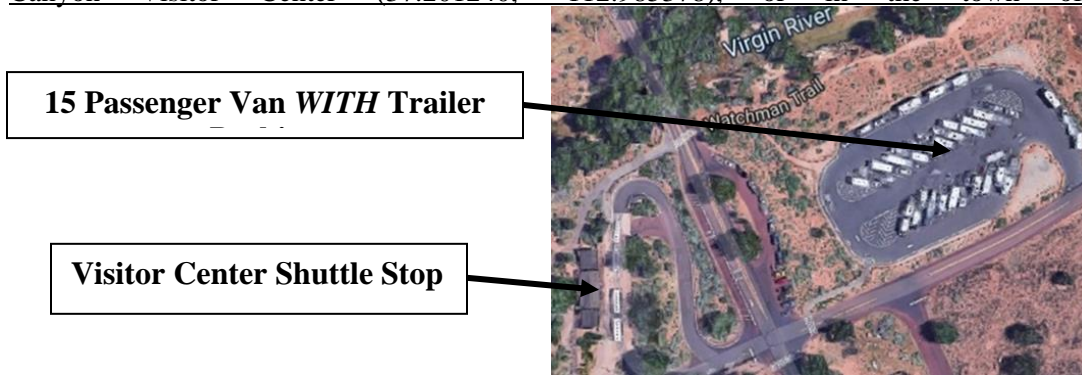
5. Speed Limits, parking, and vehicle requirements:

Speed Limits: Permittee and permittee's employees must follow all applicable traffic laws and posted speed limits throughout the park. Operating a vehicle at a speed in excess of the speed limit is prohibited. **The passing of motor vehicles is prohibited throughout the park.**

Parking: No Commercially Guided Bicycle Tour Commercial Use Authorization holder is permitted to park at the Human History Museum or the Canyon Junction (junction of the Scenic Drive and Zion Mt. Carmel Highway). Parking and stopping along park roads is prohibited except at designated parking areas or pull-offs. All vehicles must be kept on established roadways, and there must be no interference with pedestrians or other traffic in the park. All vehicles must park in designated parking spaces. **Parking and stopping in shuttle bus stops is prohibited during Zion shuttle bus operating season.**

15 passenger vans without trailer: May park in any authorized parking space designated for a standard sized vehicle (excluding Zion Scenic Canyon Drive unless in possession of overnight lodging reservations).

15 passenger vans with trailer: May only park in the oversized vehicle parking lot adjacent to the Zion Canyon Visitor Center (37.201240, -112.985378), or in the town of Springdale.



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Vehicle Requirements: Gear may be tied to the top of the support vehicle, carried inside of the support vehicle, or transported in a trailer, but must not be attached to the sides of the support vehicle.

Support Vehicle: A support vehicle and/or guide must accompany each tour and be accessible to the needs of the bicycle riders. **Support vehicles are prohibited from traveling up the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive during shuttle operation season.**

Support vehicles used while conducting guided bicycle tours must have company identification visible on the driver's side of the vehicle. The park reserves the right to refuse entry to any previously undeclared driver or vehicle.

Vehicles must not idle their engines when parked. Vehicles that sit with engines idling create unacceptable amounts of noise and air pollution within Zion National Park.

6. Closures and Public Use Limits:

The Zion Canyon Scenic Drive is limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, shuttle buses, private vehicles driven by Lodge guests with lodging reservations, and 16+ capacity passenger buses during the shuttle season (typically mid-February through November). Travel in Zion Canyon above the Lodge is restricted to all motor vehicles except Zion Park shuttle buses. The permittee's vehicles are prohibited from traveling on the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive during the shuttle season (unless in possession of overnight lodging reservations as stated above, a valid Red Permit must be displayed and visible in the windshield). Visit www.nps.gov/zion for more information on the park's shuttle system.

Additional Area Closures: Behind administrative offices, employee housing areas, behind locked gates, near water tanks, beyond fences, on service roads, and in construction areas. Any additional official seasonal or emergency closures of roads, trails, or public areas must be observed by permittee.

7. Accidents/Injuries/Illness:

All accidents involving property damage, injuries, and/or medical problems must be reported to the park immediately at a ranger contact station or by calling (435) 772-3322. All such information must also be relayed by the permittee to the Commercial Services Office within 24 hours via email to zion_commercialservices@nps.gov.

8. Resource Protection:

All permittees are required to communicate the following messages to clients receiving interpretive service:

- Group leaders should be aware of current local conditions, flood levels, and flash flood warnings. This information can be obtained by stopping at the Visitor Center.
- Collecting or removing from the park any natural or cultural resource, or damaging or defacing any natural or cultural resource is prohibited.
- Stay on the road in order to protect delicate vegetation and soils.
- In developed areas, the disposal of human waste anywhere other than in designated locations or fixtures provided for that purpose is prohibited. In non-developed areas, the disposal of human waste within 100 feet of a water source, high water mark of a body of water, a campsite, or within sight of a trail is prohibited (36CFR 2.14). The preferred option for human waste disposal is a removal system such as a

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“[Restop 2](#).” If a removal system is unavailable a 4- to 8-inch deep “cat hole” can be used. Toilet paper must be carried out.

- Take only pictures - leave no evidence of your visit.
- All food scraps (fruit peels, nut shells, etc.) are considered trash and must be disposed of properly. It is a violation to feed the wildlife, including squirrels.
- Smoking on trails is highly discouraged. Smokers must use caution when smoking to prevent igniting a wildfire. Cigarette butts are trash and must be packed out for proper disposal. Trip leaders/guides should check fire conditions for current restrictions.

9. Safety Precautions:

Permittees must post a safety notice and advise all participants to read this notice (and/or provide a safety talk before activities begin). Information contained in this notice must include, but not be limited to, water safety, environmental hazards (weather, floods, sun, temperature, etc.) and resource protection. Leaders should remind participants that heatstroke is a real danger in the desert. Participants should be advised to drink lots of water, eat snacks, and wear hats/sunscreen to minimize sun exposure. Safety information and weather conditions are available at park visitor centers and by visiting www.nps.gov/zion

Tour Leaders: An employee designated as a tour leader must ride at the rear of the group to assist with bike adjustments and other touring concerns. Tour leaders shall brief the participants of each ride on safety concerns relevant to each day's ride on the morning of that riding day.

Yielding for Trailing Motor Vehicles: Should more than three motor vehicles be following a bicycle rider or group of riders; the individual rider or group must safely pull to the side and allow the motor vehicles to pass.

Each guide must carry and maintain a kit for emergency medical care. The kit must be appropriate for group size and the nature of the activity and include a flashlight.

10. Camping:

If the permittee requires camping within the park, reservations must be made through <http://www.recreation.gov> or by calling 877-444-6777. Permittee's groups of 7 or more people are limited to Group sites in the E Loop of Watchman Campground and group sites A, B, C and D in the South Campground. Each company regardless of the number of CUA permits held is restricted to one group site per campground, per night. **Group campsite maximum capacities are strictly enforced. Arriving with a group beyond the maximum capacity for the site reserved will result in the cancellation of your reservation.**

Permittee's groups of 6 or less people may reserve one individual campsite at either campground per night, per company.

Group size is defined by the itinerary the group is traveling on. Splitting of groups is not permitted.

Violations of camping regulations will be considered a violation of this permit and may lead to the revocation of your company's campsite reservation and/or Commercial Use Authorization.

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11. Monitoring:

The Superintendent shall have the right to monitor permittees activity for compliance with all aspects of this permit.

12. Filming:

All commercial filming requires a Special Use Permit. The permittee must apply for and be issued a Special Use Permit BEFORE any filming takes place within the park for advertising (commercial) purposes. The regulation governing commercial filming and still photography is found in 43 CFR subpart A § 5.12 and states “Commercial filming means the film, electronic, magnetic, digital, or other recording of a moving image by a person, business, or other entity for a market audience with the intent of generating income. Examples include, but are not limited to, feature film, videography, television broadcast, or documentary, or other similar projects. Commercial filming activities may include the advertisement of a product or service, or the use of actors, models, sets, or props.” Using film shot in the park without a Special Use Permit is a violation of this permit and may result in revocation of the same. More information may be found regarding commercial filming may be found at <https://www.nps.gov/zion/planyourvisit/commercial-filming-and-photography.htm>. Additionally, you may contact the Commercial Services Office with any questions at 435-772-0210.

13. Entrance Fees:

Each time permittees enter the park, they must identify themselves at a park entrance station or at the Kolob Visitor Center and must present a valid copy of their Commercial Use Authorization Permit (in full) to park staff (and must be able to present to park staff upon request at other park locations). This will enable park personnel to verify that you are on the approved list for commercial activities.

Fee Schedule (subject to change)

\$20.00 per participant individual entrance fee will apply to each participant (children 15 and under are free). Participants may use annual or lifetime federal recreational land passes for entry of the pass holder (valid ID required). Permittees may NOT use personal annual or lifetime federal recreational land passes to gain entry to the park for their clients.

Guides are exempt from entrance fees when facilitating a commercial activity.

If Commercially Guided Bicycle Tours are provided in conjunction with other services permitted under the Commercial Use Authorization Program, the \$20.00 per participant individual entrance fee stated above will prevail as the fee schedule.

Individuals or groups who have previously paid an entrance fee must show proof of prior payment.

No fee will be collected from an empty vehicle entering the Park for the purpose of picking up passengers.

Tunnel escort fees of \$15.00 (subject to change) are required for all vehicles over 7’ 10” wide and/or 11’ 4” high.

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